

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CEN-
TER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the newly renovated and recently renamed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center located in New York City. The stated mission of the Center is to provide a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations, institutions and culture. For nearly two decades the Center has successfully fulfilled that mission by providing groups and individuals a safe space in which to achieve their fullest potential. The newly renovated space at 208 West 13th Street in Manhattan, will be a permanent home for the local LGBT community, fostering creativity, compassion, and activism.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has long been a beacon of hope for many in the community, serving thousands upon thousands of residents from all walks of life and from every corner of the world. The Center is not only a host to a wide variety of civic, athletic, health, and cultural groups, but it also provides an array of its own programming. Programs such as Project Connect, CenterBridge, Center Kids, the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library, and the National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History add to the expansive fabric that binds New York's LGBT Community.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in its ongoing effort to better enrich the LGBT Community and society as a whole. I am eminently proud to represent such a living landmark. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them well and all the hope for the future in their new spectacular facility.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
GEORGE KELEDJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Central Unified School District Superintendent George Keledjian. After many years of dedicated service to the district and the community, Mr. Keledjian has announced his plans to retire.

George Keledjian has an extensive educational background and a remarkable life story. After completing high school in Cyprus, Keledjian attended the Teacher's Training Institute where he decided education would be his focal point. While teaching high school in Lebanon, he earned the equivalent of three dollars a month. After five years of teaching in Lebanon, he boarded a ship for Pasadena, CA. Keledjian then attended Point Loma Nazarene College. After four years of schooling he

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received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both in Education. He began working towards his Ph.D., but due to a serious car accident he was unable to obtain his degree. After many years teaching at a junior high school in Southern California, George Keledjian came to Fresno, CA in 1966. He became Principal at Madison Elementary School in 1971. In 1984, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Central Unified School District.

In his 35 years with the district, Keledjian has overseen the building of five new schools and the renovation of many others. Performance on standardized test scores has increased to above state and county averages. Under George Keledjian's management, the district's General Fund remains financially solvent. He has also led many Central Unified schools to recognition for various awards. Two schools were recognized as California State Distinguished Schools; one school was recognized as a Bonner Foundation Virtues and Character School; two schools were recognized as 2000 Governor's Reading Award Recipients; and Central Unified's Future Farmers of America program is recognized nationally.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to George Keledjian for his accomplishments and his years of service to Central Unified School District. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing George Keledjian a happy retirement.

ADAK ISLAND TRANSFER LEGISLATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will facilitate and promote the successful commercial reuse of the former Naval Air Facility on Adak Island, Alaska. At the same time, this legislation will allow the Aleut people of Alaska to reclaim the island and to make use of its modern developments and important location.

The legislation I introduce today ratifies an agreement between The Aleut Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Navy. "The Agreement Concerning the Conveyance of Property at the Adak Naval Complex, Adak," Alaska was signed last September and is the result of more than four years of discussions and negotiations among the three parties.

The bill and the Agreement also further the conservation of important wildlife habitat. A portion of Adak is within the Aleutian Islands subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The Agreement facilitates the Department of the Interior's continued management and protection of the Refuge lands on Adak and even adds some of the Navy lands to the Refuge. Moreover, in exchange for the developed Navy lands, which are not suitable for the Refuge, but are commercially useful, The Aleut Corporation will convey environmentally sensitive lands it holds elsewhere in the Refuge to the Department of the Interior.

For many years the Navy was an important constituent in Alaska's Aleutian Chain. Its

presence was first established during World War II with the selection and development of the island because of its combination of ability to support a major airfield and its natural and protected deep water port. The Navy's presence there contributed greatly to the defense of our Pacific coast during World War II and throughout the Cold War. Through the Navy's presence, Adak became the largest development in the Aleutians as well as Alaska's sixth largest community. With the end of The Cold War our defense needs changed, however, and Adak was selected for closure during the last base closure round.

Those very same features that made Adak strategically important for defense purposes also make it important for commercial purposes. Adak is a natural stepping stone to Asia and is at the crossroads of air and sea trade between North America, Europe, and Asia. With the ability to use Adak commercially, the Aleut people, through The Aleut Corporation can establish it as an important intercontinental location with enterprise enough to provide year round jobs for the Aleut people. These goals are consistent with the promises and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the legislation that created the corporation.

This rebirth of Adak is already well underway. The Aleut people assumed responsibility for the operation of the Island from the Navy last October and there are a number of new commercial enterprises and endeavors. At the same time a new community has begun to take shape. Just last month the new City of Adak was established as a result of a public referendum and is in the process of taking over responsibility for the many public facilities.

The Agreement resolves a number of important issues related to the transfer of this former military base and the establishment of the new community on Adak, including responsibility for environmental remediation, institutional controls, indemnification, required public access, and reservation of lands for government use.

This legislation furthers this country's objectives of conversion of closed defense facilities into successful commercial reuse, it benefits the Aleut people and restores them to their ancestral lands and it benefits the National Wildlife Refuge System. I believe everyone will agree that such legislation is important and worthy of our support.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is far past the time for us to address the intolerable discrimination in drug pricing and provide a comprehensive prescription drug benefit now. These drug re-importation amendments fail to address the real issue of the lack of affordable prescription drugs and in turn provide no real relief.

Seniors should be able to buy American prescription drugs for the same price in Rochester as you can in Rio, in Mankato as you

can in Mexico City, at their own pharmacies. We pass "buy America" legislation in this body all the time; yet here we are asking American Seniors to buy American alright, just not in America—go to Canada, or Mexico, or the Islands—just not at their local pharmacy.

Congress should pass legislation now to prevent drug companies from discriminating against U.S. Seniors, allowing them to get their drugs at the same prices as their counterparts in other countries. I urge Congressional leaders to bring to the floor the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (H.R. 1400), which I am a cosponsor of, to directly tackle the issue of price discrimination. It's time to stop the current price discrimination and provide a comprehensive prescription drug benefit for all Seniors. Not debate re-impatriation amendments that only provide band-aids and not real answers.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF BALDWIN, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 125th anniversary of the Village of Baldwin, Illinois.

The Village of Baldwin originally was settled about one mile north of its present location. The early settlers were the Henderson, Allen and Preston families. In 1874, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad built a railroad line at its present location. Later, a grain elevator was built along the railroad and the village started to develop. In 1876, villagers circulated a petition requesting the official incorporation of the Village of Baldwin. On July 12, 1876, at a special term of the County Court, this petition was presented to Presiding Judge John H. Lindsey and County Clerk, John T. McBride. The petition, signed by fifty legal voters, requested that the organization of the Village of Baldwin located in the County of Randolph be approved.

County Judge Lindsey approved the petition and ordered an election be held on Tuesday July 11, 1876 at the office of RH Preston Esq. for the purposes of voting for or against the organization of the Village under the general laws of the State of Illinois. William L. Wilson and James C. Holbrook, Justices of the Peace of Randolph County, canvassed the election returns, finding that all votes cast were unanimously for the organization of the Village. Judge Lindsey ordered that on August 8, 1876 at the office of RH Preston Esq., an election be held for six Village trustees and one Village Clerk. The first Village Board that was elected then was S.H. Johnson, J.E. Davis, W.T. Thompson, James R. Holden, W.M. Wilson and S.B. Adams. The elected Village Clerk was S.D. Lindsey. On August 11, 1876, the Board of Trustees held its first meeting. S.B. Adams was chosen as the President of the Board and W.S. Johns was appointed Village Constable and S.D. Lindsey was appointed Village Treasurer.

The Village of Baldwin prospered as a small trading Village throughout the years. The main

business being a grain elevator, of which there has been one in Baldwin since its incorporation. At present, the elevator is owned and operated by Gateway FS. In 1932, Highway 154 was built through Baldwin to provide all-weather transportation to neighboring towns and communities. In September of 1940, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was purchased by the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad and renamed the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio. Later it merged with the Illinois Central Railroad and today it is part of the Canadian National System. Passenger and freight service was provided on the railroad until October 1958, when passenger service was discontinued in the 1980's. The present rail system supplies services to the Baldwin Power plant, Fairmont Minerals, the Kaskaskia Regional Port District and Gateway FS.

In the Village of Baldwin the educational system consisted of a three-year high school, a public grade school and a Lutheran grade school. The high school was discontinued in the mid 1940's and the school district became part of the Red Bud School District. In 1959, the public grade school closed and children were sent to Red Bud schools. The Lutheran grade school also closed in the mid 1970's and children attend either Prairie or Red Bud. Baldwin is also the home to many churches. Both the St. John's Lutheran Church and the Baldwin Community Presbyterian Church have organizations to promote the welfare of their members. The Village also has many varied civic organizations which include the American Legion Nicholas Laufer Post 619, the Baldwin Athletic Club, the Baldwin Community

In 1964, the Village installed both water and sewer systems. The water plant received severe damage from the 1993 flood and the plant needed to be moved out of the flood plain. After deliberation by the Board, it was determined that the Village became part of the newly formed rural water system. In early last year, the Village water system became part of the Egyptian Water Company, which purchases water from the City of Sparta. The Village sanitary sewer system was upgraded in 1987 and with federal and state assistance, their water system is about to be improved.

In 1999, the old school building, which previously served as the Village Hall, was razed. With assistance from local political leaders, funds were made available for a new Community Center. Both State Senator David Luechtefeld and State Representative Dan Reitz helped to secure the new Center. This center, when completed, will be used for all community functions and also serve as a meeting room for the Village Board. Offices for the Village President and Village Clerk will also be included in this facility. Today, the Village of Baldwin is presided over by Jeffrey S. Rowold, Village President, Wesley G. Stellhorn-Village Clerk, Eileen Mehrling-Village Treasurer, Craig Hartman, James Mueller, Darrell Mueth, Tammy Prost, Gary Schoenbeck and Cheryl Sellers all Village Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 125th Anniversary of the Village of Baldwin and to salute its past, present and future residents.

HONORING ALLEN RAMSEY

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY. Mister Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Allen Ramsey of Sullivan County, Tennessee for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee and to wish him good luck representing the State of Tennessee at the National Auctioneer Association meeting.

Allen Ramsey exemplifies the best of our great state. He works hard and gives his all to everything he does. Like many native Tennesseans, Allen grew up on a farm, and has become a farmer himself. In addition to raising cattle and tobacco on his farm, Allen has become a very accomplished auctioneer.

Last December, Allen Ramsey was recognized as the "Tennessee Grand Champion Auctioneer." He competed against seventeen other entries and was among five finalists before winning the coveted title of "Tennessee Grand Champion Auctioneer."

Mr. Speaker, next week, Allen will represent Tennessee at the National Auctioneer Association meeting in Boise, Idaho. I congratulate Allen on being named "Tennessee Grand Champion" and wish him the best of luck when he travels to Boise to represent our great state.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE DEVOLUTION ACT OF 2001

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Commercial Driver's License Devolution Act of 2001." This legislation will give states the option to establish their own commercial driver's license (CDL) requirements for intrastate drivers.

As many in this House already know, I have always been a strong advocate for taking power out of Washington and returning it to the states. I do not believe that our traditional, one-size-fits-all approach to governing is effective, efficient or economical for the American taxpayer.

The legislation which I propose today would return power to the states by giving states the option (and I emphasize option) to license intrastate drivers of commercial motor vehicles based upon testing standards determined by the individual states. As you know, the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (CMVSA) required states to establish a new and uniform program of testing and licensure for all operators of commercial vehicles both intra- and interstate. The principal objectives of this Act have been met and would not be harmed by this legislation.

The CMVSA is good law, and its provisions were necessary and timely for improving standards of performance for long-haul truck drivers. The CMVSA, however, was also imposed upon intrastate commerce where the